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JULY 16.

Mr. VAUX, Vice-President, in the chair.

Eight members present.

The following paper was presented for publication:—

“Descriptions of a new recent species of *Glycimeris* from Beaufort, N. C., and of Miocene Shells of North Carolina.” By T. A. Conrad.

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JULY 30.

Mr. B. A. HOOPES in the chair.

Six members present.

On leave being granted, Mr. TRYON read the following communication received by him from Dr. JOS. LEIDY.

ON SOME NEW SPECIES OF FOSSIL MAMMALIA FROM WYOMING.

FORT BRIDGER, UINTA Co., WYOMING,  
July 24th, 1872.

I arrived at this place on the 15th inst. The country is the most remarkable that I have ever seen. It is an immense basin, the bed of an ancient lake, bounded on the south by the Uinta Mountains, and extending far north to the Wind River Mountains. The deposits of the lake, of the tertiary period, are estimated to be about 8000 feet in thickness. They present the appearance of a succession of terraces or table-lands extending southerly from Green River to the base of the Uintas. The country for the most part is treeless, and, except along the watercourses, nearly a desert. The tertiary deposits consist of strata so little inclined that they appear to be horizontal to the eye. The strata are composed mainly of clays, soft and crumbling or more or less indurated, often mixed with sand. Friable sandstones and indurated marls, often with abundance of fresh-water shells, also frequently occur. The lands are often isolated by broad plains or narrower valleys. These isolated lands are named buttes, and resemble great earthworks or huge railway embankments. Frequently their eroded sides give them the appearance of a vast assemblage of Egyptian pyramids flanking the plains above. Such assemblages of earthworks, pyramids, mounds, piles of truncated cones, &c., rising from a plain, constitute what are named, in various parts of our great West, “bad lands” or “mauvaises terres.”

As the buttes crumble away under the effect of the weather, the fossils of their strata become exposed to view.

On the 17th, in company with Dr. J. Van A. Carter and Dr. Joseph K. Corson, U.S.A., I made a trip to the valley of Dry Creek, forty miles from Fort Bridger. Here we encamped and spent three days in exploring the neighboring buttes for fossils. In ascending the buttes bounding the valley I was astonished at the appearance of the country extending from the horizon in the north to the snowy-peaked Uintas on the south. An utter desert, a vast succession of treeless plains and buttes, with scarcely any vegetation and no signs of animal life. Everything parched, abundance of river courses without water, the stones at my feet baked in the soil. An overwhelming silence reigned undisturbed even by the hum of an insect. Truly, I said, this is the wreck of another world which was once luxuriant with vegetation and teemed with animals.

We were successful in finding many interesting fossils. The most abundant vertebrate remains are those of turtles, the shells of which are frequently met with in little heaps of fragments into which they have been reduced after exposure from the wearing of the buttes. Of mammalian remains the most abundant are those of the tapir-like animal I named *Palæosyops paludosus*. We also found a number of more characteristic specimens than I had before seen of the larger species of *Palæosyops major*. Dr. Corson further discovered the remains of a small species which may be named *PALÆOSYOPS HUMILIS*. An upper molar tooth of this animal measures three-fourths of an inch in diameter. We have likewise found some additional remains of *Hyrachyus agrarius*, and better specimens than I before had of the larger *Hyrachyus eximius*. A well-preserved last lower molar of this species measures an inch fore and aft.

We were fortunate in obtaining the remains of two of the largest and most extraordinary mammals yet discovered in the Bridger tertiary deposits. One of these was a tapiroid animal exceeding in bulk of body and limb the living Rhinoceroses, though the head appears to have been proportionally small. Dr. Carter discovered many fragments of a skeleton of the animal, including a whole humerus, portions of jaws, and a much crushed and distorted cranium.

The upper molar teeth have the crown composed of a pair of transverse lobes, with sloping sides and acute summits, separated externally and united internally in a V-like manner. A thick basal ridge bounds the crown in front and behind. A last upper molar measures an inch and a half in the median line fore and aft. The molars in advance are smaller.

The lower molars have a trilobed crown. The anterior lobe, larger than the others, extends across the crown and rises in a prominent peak internally. The acute summit is worn away posteriorly. The middle lobe extends about two-thirds across the crown from the outer side, and is less prominent than the

others. The back lobe, second in size, is thickest internally. The fore and aft diameter of the last lower molar is equal to the corresponding upper tooth.

The depth of the lower jaw at the last molar is three and a quarter inches.

The humerus is nearly a foot and three-fourths in length and seven and a half inches in breadth at the condyles.

I propose to name the great pachyderm of the Uinta country, the *UINTATHERIUM ROBUSTUM*.

If not the most interesting, the most exciting incident of our exploration of Dry Creek buttes was Dr. Corson's discovery of the upper canine teeth, apparently of the most formidable of Carnivores, the enemy of the *Uintatherium*, *Palæosyops*, and other peaceful pachyderms. The teeth resemble in their form those of the Sabre-toothed Tiger. The more perfect specimen consists of nearly nine inches of the enameled crown. In its perfect condition the tooth measured upwards of a foot in length, so that it exceeded the canines of the great Brazilian *Machairodus*. The tooth is sabre-like, curved, and compressed conical. Its most remarkable character consists in the lance-head-like form of the terminal three inches. It is thickened at the axis, and impressed and expanded towards the edges, so as to be actually broader in one portion than immediately above. The antero-posterior diameter of the crown near its base is two inches; the thickness over an inch.

These canine teeth terminating in lance-like points must have proved most terrific instruments of slaughter. Their possessor was no doubt the scourge of Uinta, and may therefore be appropriately named *UINTAMASTIX ATROX*.

On favorable report of the committee, the following paper was ordered to be printed :—